
Hunting and Scavenging for Info!

Inquiry Project 1

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CEP 806

Motivation of Inquiry

-Searcher Patterns (Hunting or Scavenging)

-Credibility

Predictions

Two Types of Researchers

Searcher banks on information to come to them (Scavenge).

Searcher is proactive and goes and gets information (Hunting).

Explanation Conti...

Scavenger

- Less Internet Savvy
- Trusting of Internet Info.

Meaning.....

Less likely to check or be concerned with sources credibility.

Hunters

- More Internet Savvy
- Cautious of Info
- Advanced Searching

Meaning.....

More likely to check or be concerned with sources credibility.

Description of Inquiry Plan

(Background)

For the past five plus years my parents with no luck have been trying to grow apple trees at our cabin in Leelanau County (Sleeping Bear Dunes area). After years of disappointment of not being able to taste the fruits of their labor and back up all the boasting of we planted this and that and me without a class to do research on I used this a opportunity for them to find a way to repair their green thumbs. With this in mind had them do a little homework on their own, both retired school employees in all. So I decided to have them research on, “What it takes to grow successful apple trees in Northwest Michigan.”

Description of Inquiry Plan

(Activity)

Research questions

1. What are the main necessities for growing productive apple trees in Northern Michigan?
 2. How was researched planting and growing information similar or different compared to your past planting and growing experience?
 3. What were reasons that you believe you were unsuccessful?
 4. What were method's suggestions you found that would help toward apple success that you discovered when researching?
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Description of Inquiry

(Follow-Up)

Once Information was gathered my parents were given a worksheet immediately with these follow-up questions.

1. What search engine did you choose?
 2. What keywords or phrases did you use in your search engine?
 3. Did you try different search methods, such as changing wording in your search engine, or change search engines?
 4. How many pages of hits did you go through to find the desired data?
 5. What caused you to click and read one hit from another?
 6. What makes a hit (webpage/article) more credible and trustworthy than others you may have dismissed?
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Predictions

- Both would use search engines on homepage
- Both would filter through many pages of hits
- No advanced searching knowledge(+,-, and, or)
- NO CREDIBILITY CHECK!!!
- Randomness of searching!!

Explanation for Predictions

- No training in internet searching and source credibility
 - Novice computer skills (middle school level “if that”)
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Interesting Patterns in Data

(Observations)

Search Engine:

Mom - Google **Dad** - Google

Keywords of Phrases Searched:

Dad - Growing Apples in N. Michigan, Problem growing apples,
apple orchards

Mom - Orchards, starting a home orchard

Interesting Patterns in Data

(Observations)

Changed search methods, engines, wording:

Mom - Just wording

Dad - Just wording

Pages of hits went through:

Mom - 5 pages

Dad - 12 pages

What caused you to click on one hit from another?

Mom - Picked hits that looked interesting

Dad - Short info on hit, relevant information pertaining to searched words

Interesting Patterns in Data

(Observations)

What makes a hit (webpage/article) more credible and trustworthy than others you may have dismissed?

Mom - Pictures, Short to the point!

Dad - From a college or university, from a person with a degree.

Looking at the Data!

My mom being less computer savvy was undoubtedly going to be easy to predict what she was going to do. She scavenged through basic searches reading ones that fit her taste.

She was unaware of credible being an issue for information on the internet!

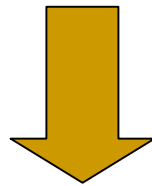
Looking at the data.....

My dad being a pro compared to my mom, also fished through pages of hits and reading many less credible articles eventually found ones that fit his need.

When asked what makes sights more credible my dad was displayed his understanding of online journals from prestigious Universities and Organizations, and discussed his struggles to find what he was looking for. My mom not as much.

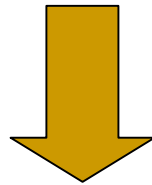
What my parents needed to be taught to be able to be proficient.

Computer/Internet Experience



My dad was stuck here but knew what he wanted

Methods of Searching



Finding and Knowing Credibility Sources

My mom was stuck here and had no idea of credibility so she took what was convenient

Summary

From doing this project I found that there are several factors that go into successful locating of credible information. Some are more technical and some are contextual.

Such as:

- I didn't know my mom wasn't aware of credibility being a problem for information on the internet. She also had no technical skills of searching so she all together was unsuccessful.
 - My dad knew what to make of the internet, but didn't know the technical tricks to finding more of what he wanted. So had to sift through a numerous amount of hits.
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Summary “Emergent Ideas”

I think as teachers we assume many students or learners have certain understandings so we don't address them independently or start at the beginning.

I would have to address students trustworthiness of the internet before explaining to them how to narrow down searches to fit their need. (take the training wheels off before you ask them to do a wheelie)
